

**Minutes of Land Use, Parks and Environment Committee
October 4, 2011**

Chair Fritz Ruf called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Fritz Ruf (Chair), Walter Kolb, and Tom Schellinger. County Board Chairman Jim Dwyer was present to fulfill a quorum requirement.

Absent: Michael Inda, James Jeskewitz, Rob Hutton, and Ted Rolfs.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Legislative Associate Karen Phillips, Register of Deeds Jim Behrend, Senior Financial Analyst Rob Dunn, Deputy Register of Deeds Chris Crouch, Financial Analyst Danielle Igielski, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Senior Financial Analyst Bill Duckwitz, Environmental Health Manager Steve Korthof, Land Resources Manager Perry Lindquist, Park System Manager Duane Grimm, Planning and Zoning Manager Jason Fruth, Parks and Land Use Director Dale Shaver, Business Manager Peter Mudek, and Supervisor Bill Zaborowski.

Future Meeting Date

- October 18, 2011 (Ruff will not attend; Schellinger may not attend).

Discuss and Consider the 2012 Operating Budget for the Register of Deeds

Behrend, Crouch and Dunn were present to discuss the 2012 operating budget for the Register of Deeds (ROD) as outlined on pages 231-239 of the budget book, including highlights, objectives and activities. Overall, both revenues and expenditures are budgeted to decrease 2%. The position summary reflects a reduction due to the reallocation of a 0.40 FTE senior financial analyst position (Dunn) to the Department of Emergency Preparedness.

Dunn reviewed total revenues, noting the decline in charges for services due to the state of economy and its effect on the real estate related revenues. Real estate transfer and recording fees are reduced in the budget by a total of \$120,000 as a result of the weak real estate market. Behrend discussed the capital project which addresses the redaction of social security numbers from real estate records that are available in electronic format on the Internet. The project is totally funded by a \$5 fee per document recorded. Revenue for 2012 includes \$100,000 in charges for social security number redaction work completed by ROD office staff.

Behrend distributed and reviewed a chart listing the ROD statistics for years 2003-2012, including document volume, staffing, costs and revenues in the cashing, real estate, administrative services and vital records programs. He noted that efficiencies and improvements in technology over the last several years have enabled ROD to do more with fewer staff.

MOTION: Kolb moved, second by Schellinger, to tentatively approve the 2012 operating budget for the Register of Deeds. Motion carried 4-0.

Discuss and Consider the 2012 Operating Budget for the Department of Parks and Land Use

Shaver and staff were present to review the 2012 operating budget for the Department of Parks and Land Use as outlined on pages 263-320 of the budget book. Shaver referred to a chart to provide a general introduction and overview of the pre-budget planning process. Expenditure reductions were realized through the impact of Act 10 provisions (approximately \$265,000 in savings from employee retirement contributions) and position reductions equaling 5.88 FTE positions. A 0.5 FTE senior land use specialist and a 1.0 FTE environmental health sanitarian are unfunded, and temporary/extra help is decreased by 4.23 FTE for a savings of \$175,000 in salary and benefit reductions. Other savings were achieved through the increase in fees (\$54,800) and other general expenditure reductions (\$28,400).

Schellinger asked about the rationale for the positions reduction – are they not needed? Shaver stated that it is a matter of increased efficiencies and decreased workload in the down economy.

Shaver noted that since the Community Development (CDBG) Fund is included in the Department of Parks and Land Use budget for the first time, it would not be reviewed with the Committee at this time. The budget was reviewed under the purview of the Executive Committee. Shaver will return with an informational presentation on the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Programs at a future Land Use, Parks and Environment Committee meeting.

Shaver continued to review the program highlights, strategic outcomes and performance measures and activity in the General Fund for the following programs:

- Financial Summary including revenues, expenditures and positions
- Solid Waste Planning, Implementation & Education
- Agricultural Land & Water Conservation
- Urban Land & Water Conservation
- Planning
- Code Enforcement/Zoning
- Environmental Health
- Humane Animal
- Hazardous Material
- Licensing
- Septic/Well/Lab Programs
- Parks Programs
- General County Grounds Maintenance
- Retzer Nature Center
- Museum
- Exposition Center
- Administrative Services

Public Comment

Zaborowski was present to speak in favor of closing Moor Downs golf course because of financial reasons as well as the construction of the Health & Human Services building on its grounds. He distributed and reviewed in depth a packet of information pertaining to the operating revenues and expenses of Moor Downs golf course and a profit/loss comparison of Moor Downs, Wanaki and Naga-Waukee golf courses. He stated that Moor Downs is consistently a “loser”. Zaborowski asked the Committee to propose a budget amendment which would start the process to close Moor Downs golf course and then take the amendment to the Finance Committee and/or County Board for consideration.

Shaver explained the intent of the enterprise funds is to cover its operating costs through revenues with no tax levy involved. The golf courses are looked at in aggregate, not individually. The three golf courses are run as a corporation, which is very typical even with privately owned courses. Shaver stated his staff is very well qualified and skilled in running the County’s enterprise fund operations. Referring to page 306, Shaver pointed out that despite Moor Downs and Wanaki being described as “losers”, there is still a projected positive cash flow of operations for 2012, though it is true that Naga-Waukee at times will carry the cost of the other two courses. If Moor Downs were to close as a golf course, the cost of maintaining an open space with no revenue stream is a lot worse on the budget than having at least some

revenue from the golf population. Shaver continued at length to justify why it is in the best interest of the County to keep Moor Downs golf course operational from a business standpoint.

For clarification purposes, Ruf reiterated that it is Zaborowski's intent for this Committee to recommend to the Finance Committee that they consider the proposal to close Moor Downs golf course; Zaborowski concurred.

MOTION: Schellinger moved to close Moor Downs golf course. Hearing no second, Ruf stated the motion failed and this committee has opined that closing Moor Downs Golf Course is not in the best interest of Waukesha County or its citizens.

Shaver continued to review the remainder of the 2012 operating budget for the Department of Parks and Land Use – Enterprise Fund, including the ice arena and materials recycling funds.

MOTION: Kolb moved, second by Schellinger, to tentatively approve the 2012 budget for the Department of Parks and Land Use. Motion carried 4-0.

In the absence of objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Jeskewitz,
Secretary